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encased within a common layer of coating, the coating layer separating the individual ropes, wherein the coating layer defines the engagement surface for engaging the sheave.

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4. (Once amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, [The tension member according to Claim 1,] wherein the tension member is formed from strands of non-metallic material.

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37. (Once amended) The tension member according to Claim 2 [1], wherein the aspect ratio is greater than or equal to two.

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11. (Once amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a non-linear engagement surface of a rotatable sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, [The tension member according to Claim 1, wherein the sheave includes an engagement surface,] and wherein the engagement surface of the tension member is contoured to complement the non-linear engagement surface of the sheave.

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13. (Once amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, [The tension member according to Claim 1, further] the tension member including a coating layer formed from an elastomer.

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16. (Once amended) A tension member for providing lifting force to a car of an elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, [The tension member according to Claim 1,] wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.

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21. (Once amended) The tension member according to Claim 2, wherein the individual ropes have an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width of the individual ropes relative to thickness t of the individual ropes, greater than one.

Please add new claims 66-75.

--66. A tension member for a car of a traction elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and the tension member including:

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an engagement surface that transfers force from the traction sheave to the tension member as a result of traction between the engagement surface and the traction sheave to thereby move the car, the engagement surface defined substantially by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one;

a plurality of individual load carrying ropes; and

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a layer of coating, the coating layer separating the individual ropes and defining the engagement surface for engaging the traction sheave;

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

67. A tension member for a car of a traction elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and the tension member including:

an engagement surface that transfers force from the traction sheave to the tension member as a result of traction between the engagement surface and the traction sheave to thereby move the car, the engagement surface defined substantially by the width dimension of the tension member; and

strands of non-metallic material;

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

68. A tension member for a car of a traction elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a non-linear engagement surface of a rotatable traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and the tension member including:

an engagement surface that transfers force from the traction sheave to the tension member as a result of traction between the engagement surface and the traction sheave to thereby move the car, the engagement surface defined substantially by the width dimension of the tension member, and wherein the engagement surface of the tension member is contoured to complement the non-linear engagement surface of the sheave;

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

69. A tension member for a car of a traction elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave of the elevator system, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and the tension member including:

an engagement surface that transfers force from the traction sheave to the tension member as a result of traction between the engagement surface and the traction sheave to thereby move the car, the engagement surface defined substantially by the width dimension of the tension member; and

a coating layer formed from an elastomer;
wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

70. A tension member for a car of a traction elevator system, the tension member being engageable with a rotatable traction sheave of the elevator system, wherein the sheave includes an engagement surface, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and the tension member including:

an engagement surface that transfers force from the traction sheave to the tension member as a result of traction between the engagement surface and the traction sheave to thereby move the car, the engagement surface defined substantially by the width dimension of the tension member, and wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave;

wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one.

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71. An elevator system including:

a car;

a sheave; and

a tension member engaged with the car, the tension member engaged with the sheave, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, the tension member including:

an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member;

a plurality of individual load carrying ropes; and

a layer of coating, the coating layer separating the individual ropes and defining the engagement surface for engaging the sheave.

72. An elevator system including:

a car;
a sheave; and

a tension member engaged with the car, the tension member engaged with the sheave, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, the tension member including:

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an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member; and
strands of non-metallic material.

73. An elevator system including:

a car;

a sheave having a non-linear engagement surface; and

a tension member engaged with the car, the tension member engaged with the sheave, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, the tension member including:

an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, and wherein the engagement surface is contoured to complement the non-linear engagement surface of the sheave.

74. An elevator system including:

a car;

a sheave having an engagement surface; and

a tension member engaged with the car, the tension member engaged with the sheave, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, the tension member including:

an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, and

a coating layer formed from an elastomer.

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75. An elevator system including:

a car;

a sheave having an engagement surface; and

a tension member engaged with the car, the tension member engaged with the sheave, the tension member having a width w, a thickness t, and wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, greater than one, the tension member including:

an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, and wherein the engagement surface is shaped to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.--

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 21, 1999.

Claims 1-65 were pending in the Application. Claims 23-65 were withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-22 were rejected in the Office Action. After amendment, Claims 2-14 and 16-22 remain pending and reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested. In addition, new Claims 66-75 have been added by this Amendment and consideration and allowance of these new claims is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

Restriction was required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to one of four groups of Claims. A provisional election to claims 1-22 was made by Applicants' representative during a telephone conversation on June 11, 1999. Applicants hereby affirm this election. The claims drawn to the non-elected invention will be pursued in a divisional application.